

Message Text

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FOR IEA AND ICS/D, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR, STATE FOR CU/EA

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TAGS:

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS--FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 1978

1. ATMOSPHERICS: (BEGIN LOU)

THE WEEKEND LEAK TO NEWSPAPERS OF A THAI ARMY INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTORATE REPORT ACCUSING EIGHT WELL-KNOWN THAI
COLUMNISTS OF BLACKMAILING WEALTHY AND ALLEGEDLY CORRUPT
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS WITH EXPOSURE IN THEIR
MASS-CIRCULATION NEWSPAPERS TOUCHED OFF A STORM AMONG THE
PRESS THIS WEEK. IN A HEATED MEETING WITH THE ACCUSED COLUMNISTS
AND OTHER NEWSMEN AT THE REPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND (ONE
OF SEVERAL JOURNALIST GROUPS,) THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF,
A MAJOR GENERAL, ADMITTED THAT THE REPORT HAD "SOME INACCURACIES"
AND WAS IMPROPERLY ASSEMBLED. A FACE-SAVING SOLUTION HAS BEEN
REACHED, AND THE REPORT WILL PROBABLY BE SHELVED. POST CONTACTS
SAY THE REPORT WAS PROBABLY ACCURATE.
(END OF LOU)

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2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

OUR TOWN AT BNC: THE BNC'S THEATER GROUP HAS COMPLETED SEVEN
PERFORMANCES OF A THAI VERSION OF THURNTON WILDER'S OUR TOWN. MORE
THAN 100 AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL ACTORS, WORKERS AND STAFF WERE
INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION, WHICH WAS SEEN BY MORE THAN 1,000
PERSONS. OUR TOWN IS THE FIFTH AMERICAN PLAY PRESENTED IN THAI BY

THE BNC THESPIANS.

REFLECTIONS: THE "REFLECTIONS" PHOTO EXHIBIT COMPLETED ITS SCHEDULED NINE-DAY SHOWING IN LUPINI PARK. THE EXHIBIT, ALTHOUGH WELL-PUBLICIZED, DREW ONLY 5,500 PERSONS.

HUGINS PROGRAMS IN SONGKHLA, BANGKOK: VOLUNTEER SPEAKER WALTER HUGINS, NEW YORK STATE UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROFESSOR AND VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW AT TAIPEI'S ACADEMIA SINICA, STOPPED EN ROUTE FROM KUALA LUMPUR FOR FIVE USIS-SPONSORED UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS, FEBRUARY 6-8, IN PATTANI AND SONGKHLA. HUGINS' TOPICS INCLUDED A HISTORICAL SURVEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. IN BANGKOK, ON FEBRUARY 9, HUGINS LECTURED BEFORE A STUDENT-AND-TEACHER AUDIENCE AT THE BNC ON "A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO MODERNIZATION." HUGINS' APPEARANCE IN THE SOUTH WAS THE FIRST BY A USIS-ASSISTED VOLUNTEER SPEAKER, AND IT WAS WELCOME BY UNIVERSITY FACULTY, PARTICULARLY IN SONGKHLA WHERE THE LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION APPEARED HIGHER. MCGINLEY

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